REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of Entry in Register:	14 June 1995
Name of Applicant/Court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	White Slavery
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Thomas Price
Producer:	Not Stated
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Medium:	Video Recording
Format:	VHS/PAL
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

• •

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	White Slavery	Running time:	56:36
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Running time:	
		Running time:	
		Running time:	
		Running time:	
		Total Running Time:	56:36

Excision/Alteration: No

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

… Please turn over

OFLC Ref: 000882

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

● ●

Direction to issue a label has not been given.

● ●

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording is dominated by strongly sexualised depictions of women being tortured. These occur within a plot using "white slavery", in which women are kidnapped, tortured into submission and obedience, and sold as commodities, as a device for showing torture. Aspects of the torture, such as the application of torture and the delivery of threats, are not shown with great realism, and discomfort, rather than pain, appears to be inflicted. However, the feature constantly focuses on acts of and symbolising torture, the mechanisms associated with torture, and women's struggles, cries and resistance. There are overtones of bondage in the clothing and equipment used in the feature. However, this association appears to be purely superficial, in that the focus is on acts of torture rather than on the sexual practice of bondage and discipline. The depictions have a degrading tone, both through the association of particular activities with punishment and humiliation, and through the sexualisation of women's discomfort and struggling.

The consistent and voyeuristic focus on torture and the struggle of women as sexual entertainment could reinforce negative attitudes towards women on the part of male viewers, especially given the prevalence of sexual violence against women in New Zealand society.

A submission from the importer states that the video recording is intended for private use. However, given the factors mentioned above, the Classification Office considers that the availability of the video recording is likely to be injurious to the public good under any circumstances. Consequently the video recording is classified as objectionable.